

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-13 NEA-10 NSAE-00
USIA-06 OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 EPG-02
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R 130031Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 852
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USOECD

STATE PASS AGRICULTURE FOR MEEKER AND MOVOTNY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, AS
SUBJECT: USSR DIVERTS AUSTRALIAN WHEAT TO CUBA

1. AGATTACHE OFFICE LEARNED THROUGH TRADE CONTACT USSR IS
DIVERTING TAIL END OF CURRENT AUSTRALIAN WHEAT CONTRACT FOR
1 MILLION METRIC TONS, NEGOTIATED APRIL 28, 1976 FOR SHIPMENT
JANUARY/SEPTEMBER 1977, TO CUBA. ALTHOUGH A PROPORTION OF
USSR CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN DIVERTED TO VIETNAM AND NORTH KOREA
IN RECENT YEARS, THIS IS FIRST TIME WHEAT HAS BEEN DIVERTED TO
CUBA. AUSTRALIAN WHEAT BOARD APPARENTLY HAS BEEN ADVISED OF
PLANNED DIVERSION, AND USSR CHARTER ACTIVITY FOR THIS PURPOSE
WAS EVIDENT THIS WEEK. AT LEAST ONE FIXTURE WAS ARRANGED,
COVERING 25,000 TONS PLUS OR MINUS 10 PERCENT, BULK WHEAT,
AUSTRALIAN EAST COAST TO CUBA, WITH VESSEL EL OCEAN, FOR
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JULY/AUGUST LOADING, AT US DOLLARS 21.25. EXACT VOLUME
TO BE DELIVERED IS NOT KNOWN, BUT AWB, WHICH RECEIVES
INSTRUCTIONS ON SHIPMENT BASIS, BELIEVES TOTAL WILL AMOUNT
TO ABOUT 50,000 METRIC TONS.

2. REASON FOR DIVERSION IS BELIEVED TO BE USSR DESIRE TO SHIP
AT LEAST PART OF THIS YEAR'S PURCHASE COMMITMENT UNDER

US/USSR LONG TERM GRAIN AGREEMENT TO NAKHODKA AND OTHER FAR EAST PORTS IN VIEW OF LARGE CROP IN PROSPECT IN EUROPEAN USSR. THIS WOULD OBIATE NEED FOR AUSTRALIAN WHEAT IN FAR EAST FOR SOME TIME. ABOUT 200,000 TONS REMAIN TO BE SHIPPED UNDER THE CONTRACT, AND IT IS CLEAR THAT AT LEAST A PROPORTION OF THIS WILL BE DIVERTED TO VIETNAM AND NORTH KOREA. HOWEVER, INTAKE BY THESE TWO COUNTRIES IS NOW FAIRLY LIMITED, AS RECORD SHIPMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE TO THEM. UNDER PRESENT CONTRACT SHIPMENTS TO JUNE 30 TO VIETNAM TOTALLED 218,921 METRIC TONS, WHILE SHIPMENTS TO NORTH KOREA TOTALLED 241,238 METRIC TONS. THIS WAS SUBSTANTIALY ABOVE THE LEVEL FOR THE COMPARABLE PERIOD IN 1976, WHEN EACH RECEIVED ABOUT 170,000 TONS. CONSEQUENTLY, THIS OFFICE ESTIMATES DIVERSION TO CUBA WELL ABOVE AWB INDICATION AND COULD REACH 100,000 TONS. ALSTON

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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